GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:142
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2003
NUMBER OF MOBILE PHONE USERS
BHAN SINGH BHAURA

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mobile phone users in the country both in rural and urban areas;

(b) the expected growth of the users during the current financial year;

(c) whether due to rapid growth of mobile phone users, the demand for land line telephone has declined;

(d) if so, the percentage of decline therefor;

(e) whether the Government are contemplating to downsize the department; and

(f) if so, the number of employees likely to be affected as a result of downsizing?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A PRADHAN)

(a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STA QUESTION NO. 142 FOR 30TH JULY, 2003 REGARDING NUMBER OF MOBILE PHONE USERS.

(a) Sir, for providing Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS), the country has been divided into 4 Metro City Service Areas and 19 Telecom Circle Service Areas (total 23 service areas). A subscriber of CMTS belongs to the whole of service area and not to a particular City/Town/Village in the service area. As such the Service Areas can not be categorized into rural and urban areas. The total number of CMTS subscribers in the country as on 30.6.03 are 1,51,48,796.

(b) No target has been fixed on the CMTS Licensees for providing CMTS connections. However, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has fixed a target for itself of 30 Lakh cellular connections for the current financial year 2003-04. As seen from the growth rate in CMTS subscribers in the country during the last few years a growth of 90-100% is expected during the current financial year.

(c) & (d): World-wide, the number of new wireless phone users being added is higher than the number of new wireline phone users. The same trend is visible in our country also. Since, the services are in the developing phase, it is not possible to estimate the percentage of decline.

(e) No, Sir, it is not contemplated to downsize the Department of Telecommunications.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.